



PREPARED FOR THE URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

Project Address: 917 Williamson Street
Application Type: Façade Grant – Final Approval is Requested
Legistar File ID # [67615](#)
Prepared By: Kevin Firchow, Acting UDC Secretary

Background Information

Applicant | Contact: Jeremy Cynkar; Destree Design Architects; Madison, WI, 53703

Project Description: The applicant is seeking final approval for a Façade Improvement Grant. The scope of the work includes the replacing of the existing storefront, canopy, and repainting. Plans also show the addition of a revised signage area.

Project Schedule:

- As a modification in a Local Historic District, the Landmarks Commission was an approving body on this element and granted a Certificate of Appropriateness on September 20, 2021. (Legislative File [67234](#)).
- Upon recommendation by the Urban Design Commission on the design elements, the resolution regarding the grant will be forwarded to the Common Council.

Approval Standards: The Urban Design Commission is an **advisory body** on this request. On October 3, 2000, the Common Council adopted Resolution No. 61179, approving the Objectives and Criteria for the Façade Improvement Grant Program. The resolution specifies that all Façade Improvement Grant proposals be referred to the Urban Design Commission for comments and recommendations. The funding resolution will ultimately be a decision of the Common Council.

Summary of Design Considerations and Recommendations

Staff recommends that the UDC review the proposed modifications and provide their findings and recommendations to the Common Council.

The request includes several components including the repair of failing trim, reconstruction the central signage area, replacement of the storefront windows, the repair and re-shingle the storefront roof, addition of an accessible handrail, and the replacement shingle siding where necessary. Other than the establishment of signage on a historic signage column, the balance of the alterations are not intended to alter the appearance, but rather to replace materials in poor conditions. Note, signage approvals still require all review and permit issuance by Zoning, consistent with the Signage Ordinance.

Staff notes as alterations to a building in the Third Lake Ridge Historic District, the modifications had to be reviewed by the Landmarks Approval. As noted above, a Certificate of Appropriateness was granted on September 20, 2021.

This request has also been reviewed by the City's Façade Grant Team, who has recommended approval noting that the proposal is believed to meet the goals of that program. Please see the report of that staff team for further information.